

Temple and Family History Consultant

In-service Training Letter, April 2017

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New Titles

In conjunction with RootsTech (the world's largest genealogy conference, hosted by FamilySearch) the First Presidency announced a re-alignment of the titles for our consultant callings. We are all now Temple and Family History Consultants. At the ward level, at the discretion of the High Priest Group Leader, there can be a Lead Temple and Family History (T&FH) Consultant. At the stake level, the former Family History Center Director is now a Temple and Family History Consultant with an additional responsibility for the operation of the FHC. Under the direction of the Stake Presidency, that couple can also serve as the Stake Lead T&FH Consultant (it is under that responsibility that Sister Gardner and I will be publishing these "In-service Training Letters").

Helper Numbers

By way of review (for most of us), a FamilySearch patron can find his/her own Helper Number after signing in by clicking on their name in the upper-right corner of any page, then click on "Setting" and looking down near the bottom of the page. The original purpose of the Helper Number was to allow anyone (especially consultants) to be able to get into the portion of Family Tree of the person being helped, whether or not that person was on-line at the time. (See "New Consultant Planner" and "Find/Take/Teach" below)

New Consultant Planner

Also released at RootTech, there is a wonderful new tool to enable Consultants to do a better job of helping people with their next steps. Access to the Consultant Planner is gained by clicking on "Get Help" in the upper right corner of any page, and then clicking on the last option, "Helping Others." The power of the planner is the dashboard that becomes visible once the consultant "Adds" a person. I recommend that you add yourself first to get practice before you involve anyone else. (NOTE: the normal sequence is 1) the HPGL assigns a consultant to a family; 2) the consultant uses the planner to send an email to "Invite" the person to provide their helper information; and then Add the person.) When the consultant wants to see the dashboard of the person being helped, simply click on "Accepted

or Added” and then on the person’s name. There is too much to know about the planner for this newsletter, so we invite you to “play” with it until you are comfortable. You may then want to invite the families to whom you have already been assigned so you can see their status and better plan what to teach them. Once you have added a person, you can use the blue “Go to tree” button to perform all of the normal “Helper” functions. Feel free to send feedback to FamilySearch using the button on the right margin.

Self-Paced Learning

One of the great features of the Consultant Planner is the link in the upper right corner “Understand Your Calling.” It gives you direct access to the latest of the training material that you can explore at your own pace. Enjoy!

Find/Take/Teach

The emphasis in Find/Take/Teach is not brand new. It is a 6-step process that consultants are asked to use to provide a rich and rewarding experience for members getting started or “re-started” in family history. If you are not yet comfortable using this framework, ask for help from your High Priest Group Leader, Ward Lead T&FH Consultant, and/or the Stake Lead T&FH Consultants. The concept is that if the consultants will follow the 6 steps, members will not only find people to take to the temple under the guidance of their consultant, but also gain confidence that they can do more on their own and receive “both sides” of the blessing from finding their own relatives and then taking them to the temple. This is one of those cases where Salt Lake is “teaching correct principles” and then asking consultants to govern themselves.

Discovery Center News

If you have not visited the Columbia MD FHC since late last year, the large room that had been dedicated to microfilm readers has been remodeled. It now serves several functions, including that of “Discovery Center.” Salt Lake has authorized our stake to create our own version of what the Family History Department is rolling out in a few places to allow more people to have a “Discovery Experience” and get excited about their family history. In our center, we have a Photo Studio (lights and green screen), a Family Tree game, family-based activities for primary-aged children, introduction to four “computer magic” applications that extend the functions of FamilySearch/Family Tree data, and help with goal setting, and more. The current news is that by the end of April, we will have provided a “Discovery Experience” to the families of the Stake Presidency, the High Council, and most of the Bishops. Going forward, the Bishops and HPGLs will be nominating the families from their wards to schedule a time in the “Discovery Center.” You may want to ask to be early in line because we teach the adults in the “Discovery Center” to get help from the ward consultants with FindaRecord.com, TreeSeek.com, Puzzilla.org and RecordSeek, as an implementation of Find/Take/Teach.

RootsTech Training

Some of the informative presentations at the 2017 RootsTech can be watched at <https://www.rootstech.org/>. If you have not explored this resource before, you will be glad you did. Enjoy!